

Canadian Hackney Society Hall of Fame 2019



Gilbert Family

The Gilbert Family's involvement with show horses and ponies dates back over 60 years and have been enthusiastic exhibitors from Manitoba.

It started with Stan and Don Gilbert buying their first show horse in the 1950s. They competed in the road horse and pony classes and with the assistance of the next generation of Gilberts, Ed, Fred and Bev, they moved into breeding and showing Hackney Ponies with many of the ponies being home bred.

They started with a pinto pony, and seeing that the Hackneys were the ones placing the highest, it was not long before they had registered Hackney ponies in the barn. Two of the early ponies were Cassilis Fine Feathers and Cassilis Meteor. These ponies were well seasoned campaigners, having been shown by A.B C Farms from Ontario, Hawthorn Mellody Farm, Illinois and John and June Sifton's Stoneacre Farm of Winnipeg. Other ponies were added from the Cambridge Farm in Ontario. Cambridge Fire Ball headed the breeding stud and sired Lady Dixie, Fire Ball's Bombadier, April's Top Brass and Flame of Fire, all ponies that were proven show ring winners. Other favourites included She's Cherrys Image, Quick Draw McGraw, Tai Pan, and the recent entries Clydes Dale, Sharp Shooter, Lovie Smith and The French Connection.

The show season starts in March in Manitoba and Saskatchewan and ended in November when entries were sent to the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. All classes on the list were entered, pair, tandems and single classes. It became a family venture and other divisions would be entered but ponies have been part of the it since the start. Fred and Bev's mother Wilma was a great supporter and always there to lend a hand and keep everything in top condition.

Currently Fred and Alice Gilbert, their son Derek, and daughter Wendy show the ponies. Wendy's sons have also become involved competing in the junior exhibitor classes. They have competed at the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair for over 60 years, and attend shows south into Minnesota, and Iowa and close to home in Brandon, Manitoba. In addition to showing, the family is involved with the fair in Brandon.

The Canadian Hackney Society takes great pride in recognizing the commitment that the Gilbert Family has made to the breeding and exhibiting of Hackney ponies in Canada. This dedication has earned them a place in the Hackney Society Hall of Fame.